For Siavash, a Forever Friend

By Masoud Jowzi, Chief editor of Pezeshkan-e Gil magazine (Journal of the Medical Society of Guilan Province, Iran)

My dear friend, Siavash Imani, a physician from Rasht who later settled in Toronto, passed away today at the age of 54, leaving his loved ones and friends behind.

After graduating, Siavash practiced in Astara and served on the board of the city's Medical Council. In those days, he would occasionally write for *Pezeshkan-e Gil* magazine from afar. However, our first face-to-face meeting happened in the early 2010s, just a week or two before he immigrated to Canada. He dropped by my clinic unannounced, simply saying he wanted to see me before he left. That spontaneous visit blossomed into a deep friendship, leading to the publication of many of his engaging essays and translations in our magazine. It also marked the beginning of our reunions in Rasht every few years during his trips back home, which continued until his illness took hold.

During one of these visits, he brought along a Russian-to-Persian translation he had done of the subtitles for the historic film *The Daughter of Gilan* (starring Ehsanullah Khan). Thanks to his efforts, we screened the subtitled film for the very first time in 2015 at the Gilan Cultural Center (Khane Farhang Gilan).

This was not his first cultural endeavor. Back in 2003, Siavash became a pioneer in digital archiving by launching a free Persian e-book newsletter (initially via email and later on Telegram), making rare and out-of-print books accessible to the Iranian online community. Given his intellectual leanings, leftist literature held a special place in this virtual library.

Even his battle with cancer couldn't dampen his restless, vibrant spirit. Instead, he launched a Telegram channel dedicated to cancer news and updates, aiming to turn his personal fight into a collective, supportive effort. It was yet another testament to his loving and hopeful soul; a man who wished for the health, well-being, and happiness of everyone, even when facing his own departure!

I offer my deepest condolences on the loss of Siavash, this cherished and "forever friend". My heart goes out first to his devoted wife and daughters, whom I know he loved dearly, and who loved him just as deeply. I also extend my sympathies to all his friends and admirers, especially dear Hesam Norouzi. *Pezeshkan-e Gil* takes pride in having brought Siavash and Hesam together, sparking a lifelong friendship that continued as they became neighbors in Toronto.

Your memory will live on, dear Sia. You were truly lovable, kind, and a man of impeccable character.